(a) whether Government is making efforts to bring back treasure including private articles of Maharaja Daleep Singh son of Sher-e-Punjab Ranjit Singh and the last emperor of Sikh empire;

(b) whether Government is aware that a Sikh organization has written a letter recently to Queen to bring back Maharaja's treasure along with his letter, diaries and articles which were taken to Britain during 19th century;

(c) whether Government has any list of other legacies plundered from India and taken to Britain; and

(d) if so, the efforts being made to bring them back to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Slum free India

2161. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any project to make India slum free in near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for no improvements in civic amenities in slums all over the country;

(d) whether his Ministry has prepared action-plan for cities like Mumbai, Kolkata, Delhi, Chennai, Ahmedabad and Hyderabad; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has recently announced a new scheme called Rajiv Awas Yojana for the slum dwellers and the urban poor. The scheme is aimed at providing support to States that are willing to provide property rights to the slum dwellers with an effort to create slum free India.

(c) to (e) Urban development/slum upgradation is a State subject. The reasons for no improvements in civic amenities in slums include the lack of adequate investment in housing and basic amenities by States/Urban Local Bodies in slums in addition to continued migration and other factors. It is upto the concerned States/Cities to prepare action plans for improvement in civic amenities in their respective States/cities. The Ministry has not prepared any city-specific action plan.

Dialogue on IPI pipeline project

2162. SHRI MANGALA KISAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state: